

PODICEPS MINOR.

The Little Grebe is found breeding, but is rare.

COLYMBUS SEPTENTRIONALIS.

Henke once obtained an example of the Red-throated Diver in autumn.

COLYMBUS ARCTICUS.

The Black-throated Diver is a very rare winter visitor.

XVII.—On *Ninox rudolfi*, a new Species of Hawk-Owl from the Malay Archipelago. By A. B. MEYER, M.D., F.M.B.O.U.

(Plate VI.)

NINOX RUDOLFI.

Supra griseo-brunnea, albo variegata; capite et nucha nigrescentibus vel fusco-brunneis, maculis vel fasciis albis ornatis; fronte, loris, superciliis, facie anteriore, mento, gula et collo antico albis, plumarum pilosarum rhachibus nigris, plumis suborbitalibus et auricularibus fusco-brunneis; pectore, abdomine et subcaudalibus rufescenti et albo fasciatis, fasciis rufescentibus anguste nigricanti vel fusco marginatis; subalaribus rufescentibus, striis transversis plus minusve fulvescentibus; alis dorso concoloribus; remigibus supra et subtus fasciis pallidioribus, albidis et albis notatis; cauda supra remigibus et dorso concolori, subtus pallidior, rectricibus fasciis 9–11 transversis pallidioribus et albidis ornatis; tibiis et tarsis totis plumosis, rufescentibus, striis obscurioribus et pallidioribus parum conspicuis; rostro nigro, culmine flavescente; digitis pallidis setosis.

Long. tot. circa 350 mm., al. 243, caud. 145, rostr. hiat. circa 30, tars. circa 40.

Hab. Ins. Sumba (*Riedel coll.*).

Above greyish brown, spotted or streaked with white, darker from the hind neck to the head, which is blackish; each feather of the head bears two white spots or streaks; most of the feathers of the hind neck and mantle with a white coherent spot on their apical third, and another one or two, not coherent, subterminal ones; on the middle of some of the feathers, besides, a third lengthened white spot. On



J. Gould del.

Hanhart imp.

HINCK RUDOLPHI.

the back and rump the white spots and streaks are less frequent, more numerous again on the upper tail-coverts. The concealed part of the feathers dark grey. Forehead, lores, fore part of the cheeks, chin, throat, and neck in front white, the feathers partly with black shafts, especially the bristly ones of the loreal region. Subocular region and ear-spot blackish brown; sides of the neck spotted with white, like the hind neck.

Under-surface of the body reddish brown, barred with white; each feather with several (mostly three or four) brown and the same number of white bars, the brown ones bordered with blackish. The breadth of the white bars measures from 4 to 7 millimetres, that of the brown ones from 2 to 5. The total impression, however, is not that of a white under surface barred with brown, but of a reddish brown one barred with white. Under tail-coverts marked in the same way. The concealed part of the feathers blackish grey.

Wings above uniform with the back; upper wing-coverts partly streaked with pale reddish brown, similar to the coloration of the under surface of the body, besides being spotted or banded with white. Quills with lighter bands, ending in white spots on the primaries, generally more whitish on the secondaries and tertiaries. Under wing-coverts reddish brown, similar to the colour of the breast, irregularly streaked. Under surface of the wings blackish grey, with more distinct transversal bands, which are partly lighter and pure white, especially on the middle and basal thirds of the quills.

Tail above uniform with the wings, with nine lighter cross bars on the middle rectrices and eleven on the outer ones; tail below lighter, with whitish cross bars.

Leg-feathers of a light buff colour, very indistinctly streaked.

The most obvious character of this new species is the spotted head; but, besides, it is so very distinct that it cannot be confounded with any other one. From localities adjoining Sumba or Sandlewood Island, the following species of *Ninox* are at present known:—

Ninox fusca (V.), from Timor, which species Mr. Riedel, the well-known resident and explorer of the Malay archipelago, also procured on Sumba. It is barred with smaller longitudinal but transverse bars on the under surface, and is without white spots on the head. Cf. Sharpe, Cat. ii. 1875, pl. xii. fig. 1.

Ninox florensis (Wall.), from Flores, which Mr. Sharpe identifies with *Ninox scutulata* (Raffl.), loc. cit. pp. 157, 165. This species has no spots on the head, and only five cross bars on the tail.

Ninox punctulata (Q. & G.), from Celebes, reminds one somewhat of *Ninox rudolfi* as regards its spotted upper surface; but, besides other characters, is much smaller; the wings, for instance, measuring only 160 millimetres in specimens collected by myself near Gorontalo, against 243 millimetres in *N. rudolfi*.

This new species would require a special division in Mr. Sharpe's "Key" (loc. cit. p. 152), which runs as follows:—

c. Breast spotted or transversally barred.

e'. Head spotted or barred.

e''. Size large, wing 10·5–18·5 inches.

f''. Size smaller, wings not exceeding 8·5 inches in length.

The length of the wings in *N. rudolfi* is 9·5 inches; it therefore ranges between the divisions e'' and f'', and seems to be rather isolated among the various known species of the genus *Ninox*—a view shared by my friend Mr. Sharpe, who has kindly inspected one of the specimens, the types of which are now preserved in the Dresden Zoological Museum.

I have great pleasure in naming this new species *Ninox rudolfi*, in honour of the illustrious patron of ornithology, His Imperial & Royal Highness Archduke Rudolph, Crown Prince of Austria, as a slight token of respect for his personal virtues and scientific attainments.

Dresden, December 1881.